

UA Meeting Minutes  
September 18  
7:00pm  
UA Office

1. Roll Call and Member Introductions

- a. Name, year, function, course, ice cream.
- b. Noah: I want to let you know how things have changed over the summer. I have tried to meet with the administrators, figure out their relationship with committees and the UA, and how I can help them. The UA's goal is a matter of connecting the right people with the right resources. Internally, I have been working on the infrastructure of the office: if you have time to kill, come here to the office to hang out and discuss things with fellow UA members.
  - Dean Columbo is the new Dean for Student Life. One of my goals is to ground him into what is MIT before he makes a decision on what do students want. These decisions are not yet being made. I've set up an email list between he and the students so that he can meet with us over lunch or some other get-together. This will serve as a forum for him to get to know the interests of the students. Additionally, he wants to have dinner with 8-10 people in the UA to sit down and talk to us.
  - Data display, furniture, and other items. I want to invest in products that will make this place one where we all want to be.
  - Let's take a loop, and have each committee let me know your goals and major ideas.

2. Committee Updates

- a. Dining Committee: met with Vice chair last year—have first Dining committee meeting wednesday
  - Finishing up tabulating survey data from McCormick—then meet with chefs at dorms.
  - Tuesday 20 September will be the first Blue Ribbon Committee meeting where we can get more informed; look at survey results, and hundreds of pages of data.
  - Looking into opening a contract with Bertuccis at Kenmore Square.
  - As for major goals for the year, we haven't come up with too much; want to get things accomplished from last year; still looking to close any open loops.
- b. Sustainability Committee: sustainability progress: worked on project over the summer; we have 2700 dollars in fundraising; total cost was \$3400, which means we committed 1/3 of amount we used last year!
  - Another event: during orientation, events were moderately well attended; a few guest speakers came in to talk about politics and some science behind energy and what is happening on campus.
  - IEP class may happen (no energy and the environment FPOP)--we want a central event or venue to discuss these issues.
- c. Senate Speaker: still working on figuring out who are going to be our Senators for the year, as elections are ongoing.
  - Goals:
    1. make meetings shorter,
    2. make senators useful, and
    3. improve retention, which will result if 1 and 2 do too.
  - Want to work closer with W1 McGregor.
  - Two major initiatives:
    1. enhancing GIR input from students;
    2. start on Love advising

- Comment: The MIT faculty is dealing with the transition to the new double-major system, and is working on logistics about how to make it happen--any issues with the new double-majoring process need to be raised soon. This incoming class should have the option to get two majors, since the idea was still being debated during their admissions process.
- d. Noah: Paul spangle got to me today; ticket sales are up.
- e. Noncomm: working with committees that aren't in touch with the Administration and committees that want a stronger backing and more people. We don't need many people in Noncomm until December, so beginning then we'll try recruiting.
- f. Noah: The biggest thing to work on is figuring out how to ensure that the people we put on committees will trace their thoughts back to you.
  - Response: if people don't show up to meetings, we have an easy way to replace them.
- g. Vrajesh: COC website tells us that these Freshmen cannot pursue a second bachelors. We need to look into this.
- h. Noah: Over the summer, the Barker reading room has been undergoing nice renovations; changes are coming. I'm thinking about piggy-backing with dorm storm to collect feedback and stay in touch with UA members for renovation ideas.
- i. Ideas: printing center in Stata or Athena cluster in Brain and Cog building
  - Leads to question: are there places where these new computing facilities should go?
  - Comment: contact ISAB (IS&T Advisory Board) about computing resources around campus.
- j. Paul: Institutes major goals for the next years are to address a few key issues. We feel that the Administration has had problems managing the housing situation for incoming students.
  - Comment: in latest meeting of CUP, Dean Henderson brought up the same issues. He'd be interested in helping us uncover relevant data and help make informed decisions
- k. Information Technology: I plan on completely redesigning our website. Outside of this, my main goal is to provide whatever kind of UA support the UA needs. Any tech. or web development need, let me know so that I can address them.
- l. PR: working on getting nicer UA shirts, in addition to other small items. Generally, help foster better relations between the UA and the Tech (newspaper) and student body.
  - Noah: I will work with PR committee on branding. We need to get better known and earn the respect of our student body in all that we do. If we can tie this back to the whole and express the sentiment that we come from the same place, we can build strong relationships with other students so that they can witness and respect the things that we do.
  - Mike: We are one of the largest student organizations on campus, and we need to make people realize that we do important things. We need to be able to proudly respond to the question: what does the UA do?
  - Noah: We need to maintain and build credibility.
- m. Committee on Student life: With all of student rights and advocacy issues that came up last year, we'll start by drafting up a mission statement to define our goals and intents. We plan to continue to plan and host more of these events (such as the movie on lawn).
  - Other main activities:
    1. Undergraduate Mentorship program (pairs upperclassmen with freshman). We're thinking of having huge kickoff events for bonding purposes.
    2. Wellness Week: each day has events geared towards mental health and other health on campus. Want to get people to really be able to come up to meet UA members...
  - Comment: let's do like Smoothie Fridays or something so that people have an incentive to come.
  - Noah: Friday afternoons we can plan something at maybe coffeehouse or some other major meeting place. Even if we can reach out to a few people, it's worth a shot.

- Eric Fogg is forming a committee that looks at substance and alcohol use at MIT. It aims to save Steer Roast. It will probably become a sub-committee.
- n. Chair of Athletics Committee: last year, committee existed but nobody knew about it. Then came our Athletics Weekend, which lots of people attended. Next Saturday is the next one: 4 games. This year we acquired funding through outside sponsors. Looking to get involved with mural that is being created along the Z-Center. Also, look to improve equipment for sports.

### 3. Committees: Logistics

- a. Mike and Noah: We need rosters and applications for committees.
- It appears that committees need a few more members each
  - Noah: I want to get UA members surrounded by people dedicated to their committee and happy to be there.
  - Need an application process that identifies individuals as compatible and beneficial to committees.
    - Include information specific to committees (events committee: partly entails calling people up casually and asking them to help).
- b. Mike: one of my major jobs is to coordinate committees and events
- Every committee: please make a google calendar (public) and email ua-exec, to make these events open to the public and let people know what's happening and when. Creating this calendar that can be accessible to all will really be helpful.
  - I want to instate a 24-hour email reply rule: please reply to UA e-mails within 24 hours of receiving them so that things run smoothly.
- c. Budget is coming up: we're looking for approximate numbers for what we might want for this year. Ordering some food for committee meetings or maybe planning other events is just fine. Just let Noah and I know what you have in mind.
- Committees can ask for a little more money to make things more enjoyable. Keeps people happy and productive.
  - Please have a budget available by **September 29**. We will discuss the specifics and justifications on an individual basis.
    - Please have it in as soon as possible—**October 1<sup>st</sup>** the latest.
- d. Information Technology: results of election will be in Saturday morning.
- e. Riley: Committees can spend before they get budgets as long as this will be accounted for later and committees can pay me back.
- Feel free to do things that you think up. We are financially sound.
- f. Noah: money is not an issue. If you want to do something, bring it up and do it.
- g. Noah and Mike are coordinators: they will make things you want happen.
- h. Mike: we'll put you into contact with the people with whom you need to speak.
- i. Faculty dinners: we'll follow up on that.
- j. Noah: So things to think about for the immediate term:
1. google calendar;
  2. committee applications, and
  3. budget.
- k. Noah: minutes will be in one place.
- l. Mike: each committee will have a tab within the web page, so that they can post any important information publicly.

### 4. Meeting Adjournment